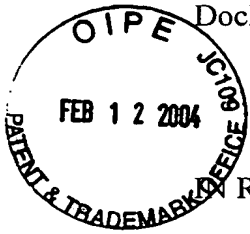


Docket No.: 215483US0



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

RE APPLICATION OF :

YUJI HATADA ET AL

: EXAMINER: SWOPE, S.

SERIAL NO: 09/985,689 :

FILED: NOVEMBER 5, 2001

: ART UNIT: 1652

FOR: ALKALINE PROTEASES :

AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. BOX 1450
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450

SIR:

In response to the Official Action dated August 12, 2003, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following amendment and remarks.

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 2 of this response.

Amendment to the Abstract begins on page 3 of this response.

Amendments to the Specification begins on page 4 of this response.

Amendments to the Claims begins on page 16 of this response.

Support for the Amendment appears on page 23 of this response.

Remarks begin on page 24 of this response.

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The Office Action, dated August 12, 2003, indicated objections to the drawings filed on November 5, 2001 as lacking clarity in the Figure Legends. The specification has been amended herein to provide appropriate clarification. In addition, Figure 1 has been relabeled as Figures 1A – 1D, which is believed to provide additional clarity.

Attachment: Letter Submitting Drawing Sheet(s) / Two (2) Replacement Drawings